

3rd March 1927]

(b) whether there is any proposal for converting Amalapuram canal of the same division into an irrigation canal; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the joint lock of the Amalapuram and Gannavaram canals is going to be separated into two?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The Government have no information but have called for a report from the Chief Engineer.

Action taken on the recommendations of the Mettur Irrigation Committee.

* 216 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether final orders have been passed on the recommendation of the Mettur Irrigation Committee that the lands in Bhavani taluk to the extent of about 20,000 acres may be irrigated with the water from Mettur dam and if so, to what effect;

(b) whether the recommendation of the Committee that the question of irrigating some lands in the Salem district with the water from that dam be further investigated has been given effect to and if so, with what result; and

(c) whether the investigation made regarding further irrigation of lands in the Coimbatore district beyond the 20,000 acres referred to in (a) by taking a channel above Kaveripuram has been completed and if so, with what result?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 1974 I., dated 16th December 1926, which has been placed on the Editors' Table.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“As regards (a) and (b), in view of the fact, if I am permitted to say so, that the hon. Law Member's memory seems to be short, may I ask him whether he did not say at the time of the adjournment motion that the matter might be further considered and that the matter might be again gone into after the Government Order?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“Yes.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“Sir, in view of that, may I know if any further action has been taken in the matter after consulting his colleague or having asked anybody to enquire into the matter?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“Yes, Sir, the question is under consideration.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“May I know how the matter is under consideration? I think there was a recent Government Order by the Government of India by which such matter can be referred to an advisory board. May we be told in what line the matter is being considered?”

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“When the matter was debated on the last occasion and when the question was raised as to the necessities in the supplementary questions of the hon. Member for Coimbatore and other hon. Members, I said that the Government Order referred to in the answer was the opinion of the Government at that time but with

[3rd March 1927]

regard to what had fallen from the hon. Member from Coimbatore, I said the question will be considered. I think my hon. Friend is referring to the Government of India Order enabling us to consult certain ad hoc board on the question of major improvements, that is the possibility. All that I can say is that the question is under consideration. If further opportunities are given in the course of the general discussion, I will give the further details."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" May I take it that the answer given is not the proper answer? I have been referred to the Government Order. May I take it that the final order has not been passed? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" At present it represents the opinion of the Government. Unless Government have arrived at a modified policy, this would stand."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" As regards (c), may I remind the hon. the Law Member that the Government Order says nothing about it? Clause (c) refers to the action being taken in respect of a channel above the dam near Kaveripuram. May I request the hon. Member to say whether he would go into the matter and see if anything could be done? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" I shall have that the matter investigated with reference to the question propounded by the hon. Member."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know whether in apportioning water in big irrigation schemes Government takes into consideration the fact that a particular tract is likely to benefit a large number of small landholders as against a smaller number of big landholders? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" In making programmes of extensions of irrigation, that is a very important matter to be taken into consideration."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" May I know if that fact is taken into consideration in new irrigation schemes or only in case of extensions? "

The hon. Sir C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—" *A fortiori* new."

Legislation

Introduction of a Tenancy Bill for Malabar.

* 217 Q.—Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce any Tenancy Bill for Malabar;

(b) whether the Bill contains any provisions to prevent arbitrary evictions and melcharths; and

(c) whether the Government intend to give temporary protection to the tenants from arbitrary eviction and melcharth, till the passing of such a Bill?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 51.